

Newsletter Issue 2/2025

Final meeting for the Co-UDlabs - Building Collaborative Urban Drainage research labs project.

The Co-Udlabs project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101008626.

As Co-UDlabs - Building Collaborative Urban Drainage research labs communities is coming to an end in April 2025, project partners celebrated and presented the achievements of 4 years of collaborative work during a final info day which took place on March 18th, at the Fundación Galicia Europa in Brussels. You can find all the presentation and the video of the infoday [online](#).

Among the project outcomes: 31 innovative projects performed in Co-UDlabs [research facilities](#) with over 220 researchers, academics, technicians, local regulators, and private sector representatives involved; several market-ready technologies and tools developed; organisation of around 20 training events for researchers and industry professionals; creation of new collaborations and networks; various open datasets and publications available or currently being peer-reviewed in indexed journals and at least three policy briefs.

Our [latest policy brief](#) is about assessing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) spills, whose impact on environment and public health is a concern. Among our recommendations, we highlight the need for further research on environmental and human impacts of intermittent CSO spills, operational improvements to eliminate dry-weather spills, integrated CSO impact evaluation with wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) discharges, and targeting stormwater inflows by promoting Nature Based Solutions.

We recommend supporting the recast of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) with monitoring technology development projects involving large Research Infrastructures and see substantial business opportunities in CSO monitoring innovations. We also recommend funding to enable the sharing of monitoring experience between all water utilities to share learning.

In the upcoming weeks, until the end of April, Co-UDlabs aims to keep on working in close collaboration with its partners to strengthen its science-to-policy contribution, while creating new and effective opportunities for cross-border research cooperation and to make sure the Co-UDlabs legacy will last in the years to come.

Among the ongoing actions, we are working to develop UDRAIN, the JCUD Working Group on Large Research Infrastructures in Urban Drainage, which Co-UDlabs has contributed to establish in April 2024. With UDRAIN we are looking to expand our community and objectives, including [mapping research infrastructures](#) worldwide, facilitating exchanges, and enabling transnational access for an even larger network of partners and collaborators to improve knowledge, technology, and methods in urban water and drainage management.

Co-UDlabs' legacy stands also in the [training and education events and material](#) it has developed throughout its lifetime, as well as the new tools, datasets and publications that are publicly accessible on [Zenodo](#).



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Building Collaborative Urban Drainage research lab communities

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